



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FEDERAL AGENCIES FINED FOR DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

San Diego Environmental Case Brought Against U.S. Department of Defense

San Diego, CA (June 15, 2000) -- Dump hazardous materials in the wrong place, and you will have to face the consequences . . . no matter who you are. That's the message of an environmental case brought against the United States Department of Defense and other federal agencies by the San Diego City Attorney that was settled in San Diego Superior Court today.

In the settlement, the Department of Defense, along with the Defense Logistics Agency and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service, agreed to pay \$122,000 in civil penalties and costs. The civil lawsuit filed by the City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit alleged that employees of the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service illegally disposed of hazardous materials into trash dumpsters on two occasions. This waste was then transported to the Miramar landfill. The waste included material used to make military helmet liners, an emergency re-breather, and fluorescent light tubes. These products all contained hazardous substances, including mercury, barium, and isocyanate.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service, with assistance from the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department, investigated the incident after receiving a call regarding suspicious materials found at the Miramar landfill. Once notified of the violations, the Department of Defense, the Defense Logistics Agency, and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service all cooperated with law enforcement and the City Attorney's Office, and took immediate steps to prevent future violations. The judgment includes an injunction, requiring the defendants to conduct environmental awareness training for all Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service employees in California who deal with hazardous materials or wastes.

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